

Top Secret

POLAND: Violence Continues

Polish authorities yesterday admitted there were more protests in two cities on Wednesday when demonstrators in Lubin set fires and marched on party headquarters. Press reports say that more rioting occurred in Lubin on Thursday—probably in reaction to the deaths of two demonstrators there on Tuesday—but the government today claims that calm had been restored. Warsaw has suspended indefinitely all intercity telephone service in order to prevent protest organizers from communicating. Press officials privately admitted that on Tuesday as many as 7,000 people were arrested and 1,000 injured nationwide—figures substantially higher than those released officially.

Comment: The death toll in Lubin and elsewhere probably will climb, given the large number of casualties and the possibility of continuing violence. The cutoff of communications indicates the regime believes the situation remains volatile throughout the country.

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